



# SHARK UNIT

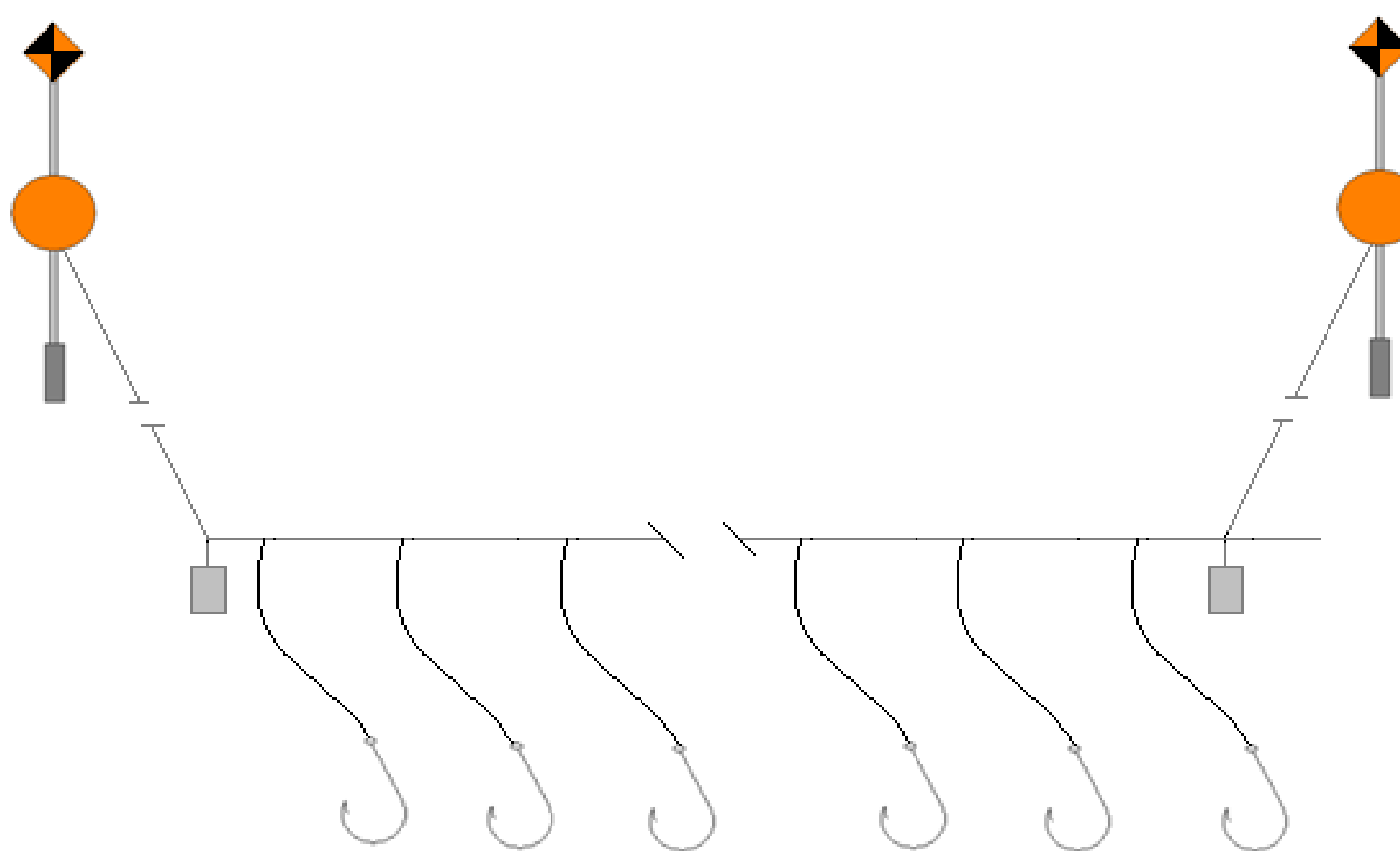
## Resource Surveys



*The primary mission of the Shark Unit is to conduct longline surveys to monitor interannual variability in the abundance of shark populations off the Atlantic coast and in the northern Gulf of Mexico.*



- Data collected during longline surveys conducted by the Shark Unit are invaluable for stock assessments and cover a larger spatial range than other similar surveys being conducted anywhere in the world.*



- The standardized bottom longline gear used during most surveys includes 100 hooks attached to one nautical mile of mainline.*



- The length, weight and sex of each shark captured is recorded. Most sharks are tagged prior to release in an effort to monitor movements and growth rates.*